

Judy Hammond



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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Chief Administrative Officer

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March 7, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

LONG BEACH COURTHOUSE INCIDENT

On January 18, 2005, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, the Board instructed the Chief Administrative Officer, the Sheriff, the Director of Internal Services and the Executive Officer/Clerk of the Superior Court to work together to investigate the circumstances surrounding the medical emergency incident that occurred on January 12, 2005. The group was further instructed to provide recommendations on how to best prevent another similar incident. This report reflects the cooperative efforts of the departments and agencies detailed in the January 18 motion. Due to potential security issues for judges and employees, the specifics of that incident are not discussed below.

To summarize the incident, a potential juror suffered a heart attack in the sixth floor cafeteria of the Long Beach Courthouse. After a call to 9-1-1, paramedics responded to the scene and transported the patient to a nearby hospital. He was later pronounced deceased.

Based on the review of the involved County and Superior Court agencies, several actions have already been taken:

- ISD has completed maintenance on the judges' elevator, and is currently modernizing the custody elevator; modernization of the judges' elevator will follow beginning in May 2005.
- ISD has provided the Sheriff's department with independent elevator override

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capability for the Long Beach public elevators. This capability will allow the user to travel directly to the indicated floor, without stopping when would-be passengers have pressed the elevator call button on intervening floors.

- ISD has completed repairs on the escalators between the fifth and sixth floors, and has accelerated their schedule of repairs on the remaining escalators.

Recommendations for future actions include:

- In cooperation with building coordinators and the Sheriff, Office of Public Safety, and the Superior Court, ISD will explore the feasibility of providing independent elevator override capability to the Sheriff in courthouses and to the Office of Public Safety in other County buildings, for use in emergency situations.
- The Sheriff plans to meet with Long Beach Police and Fire Departments and the Court Administrator in the Long Beach Court to discuss procedures and protocols for emergency responses to and within the Long Beach Courthouse.
- The CAO will work with the Superior Court to review the feasibility of installing defibrillators in all appropriate courthouse locations, including addressing issues of training and potential costs.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me, or your staff may contact Michele Vercoutere of my staff at 213-893-2476.

DEJ:JSE
MV:rr

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Director of Internal Services
Sheriff
Executive Officer/Clerk, Los Angeles Superior Court